



Monthly Hazard Risk Assessment

APRIL 2005

*May is
Volcano
Awareness
Month*

Statewide
Hazard Statistics
April 2005

- CSEPP = 9
- DOE = 0
- FIRE = 21
- HAZMAT = 186
- OTHER = 29
- 911 OUT = 4
- SAR = 34
- TERROR = 0
- WEATHER = 8
- CGS = 0
- TOTAL = 292

Executive Summary

This summary provides a general assessment of the hazards that are believed to present the greatest risk at this time and for the next few months. It is intended to provide emergency managers, planners, officials, and the public advance notice of potential hazards to enable them to initiate appropriate mitigation and preparation actions. Local consultations are always advised. Compiled by: Analysis and Planning Section.

Drought

Recent rains produced a modest improvement in the water supply and overall environmental conditions in western Washington. Drought conditions this summer are almost certain to occur. Eastern Washington is still highly vulnerable as it is the quantity and nature of the snow pack, rather than rainfall that quickly runs off, that determines the severity of drought conditions. See:

<http://www.drought.unl.edu/risk/impacts.htm#types>

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/drought/2005/drthm.html>

Wildfire

Drought conditions, especially in eastern Washington, are likely to produce an earlier and more severe than normal wildfire season. In spite of slightly improved condition in April and May, continuing dryer than normal weather plus the expected green up of vegetation that increases the fuel supply indicate high fire danger conditions in the next few months and continuing well into fall. See historical graphic below.

Volcano

The lava dome at Mount St. Helens continues to grow at a relatively rapid rate compared to the 1980-1986 period. The volcano is extruding material at about 3 to 5 cubic meters per second. During April, seven earthquakes of magnitudes 2.8 to 3.4 were noted near Mount St. Helens in a ten day period. A limited eruption, with little warning, is possible in the future; however, damage would probably be limited to a radius of several miles from the mountain. During an eruption, a hazard to aviation could extend up to 100 miles downwind.

For updated volcano information see:

http://www.pnsn.org/NEWS/PRESS_RELEASES/MSH_09_2004.html

Upcoming Events

- **CSEPP Exercise**
May 10
- **Washington Search & Rescue Conference**
May 16-22

Washington EMD
Bldg. 20,
MS:TA-20
Camp Murray,
WA 98430-5122

Phone:
(253) 512-7000

Fax:
(253) 512-7209

E-mail:
e.quarles@
emd.wa.gov

Online:
www.emd.wa.gov

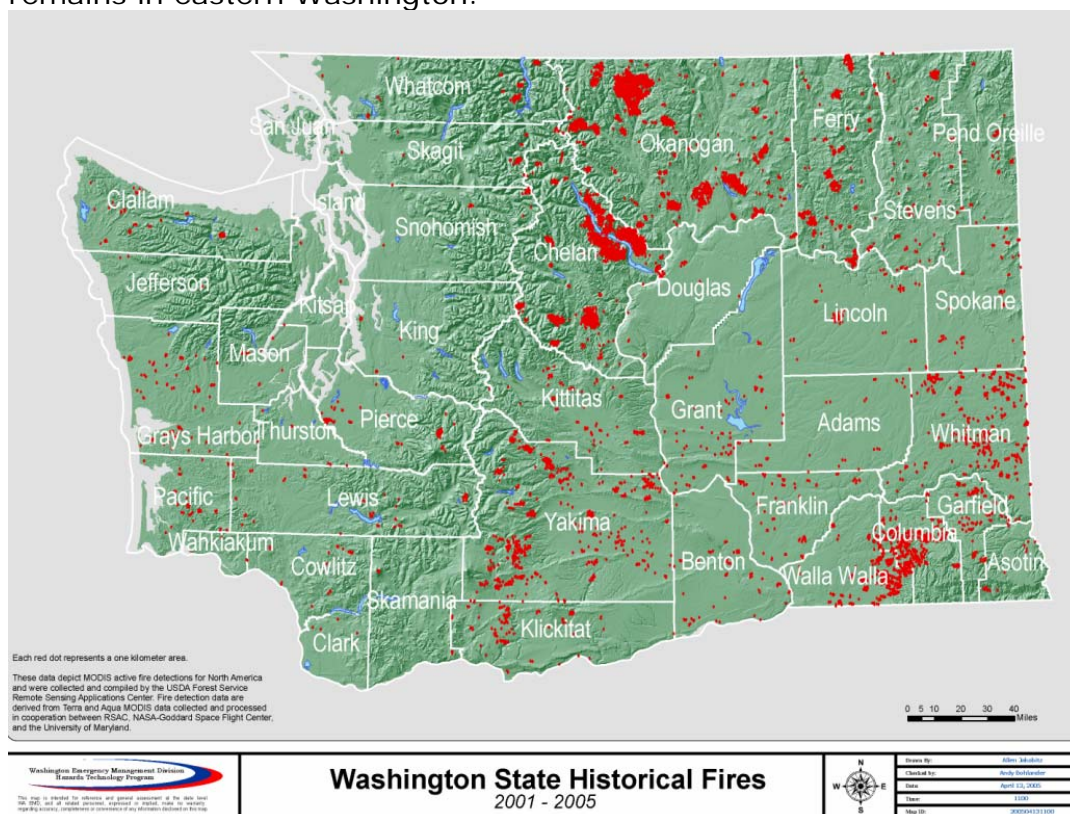
Terrorism

The Department of Homeland Security's national threat level remains "Elevated." See Statewide information at: <http://emd.wa.gov/site-general/wahsas/wa-hsas-idx.htm>

See Federal information at <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/>

Image of the Month

The location of Washington wildfires over the past several years is shown on the following map. While the fuel buildup and density in the western part of the state is significant, the primary fire potential danger remains in eastern Washington.



NATURAL HAZARD	CURRENT PRIORITY	PROBABILITY / FREQUENCY	IMPACT POTENTIAL	ANALYSIS SUMMARY	REMARKS / SOURCE
DROUGHT	1	MEDIUM	HIGH	While some recent improvement has been noted in western Washington, drought conditions this summer are almost certain in eastern Washington. The rapidly melting, less than normal, snow pack is especially critical for agricultural irrigation in the region. See: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/drought/2005/drthm.html	Long term weather forecasts indicate generally "normal" to dryer conditions for the next few months.
WILDFIRE	2	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	Spring rains produced some normal green up and increased the fuel load. Above normal fire potential is expected for the Northwest. See: http://www.nifc.gov/news/intell_predserv_forms/season_outlook.html	Fire danger potential has decreased slightly for May, but should increase in June and July. Prepare, see: http://www.firewise.org/
VOLCANO	3	MEDIUM	LOW	In the event of an eruption, historically, the ash hazard tends to spread eastward The new lava dome continues to grow at a rapid rate and may soon be visible above the crater rim. See current updates at: http://www.geophys.washington.edu/SEIS/PNSN/	Volcano information: http://www.pnsn.org/NEWS/PRESS_RELEASES/MSH_09_2004.html For additional information on Tsunami Awareness: http://www.ess.washington.edu/tsunami
EARTHQUAKE		LOW	HIGH		
TSUNAMI		LOW	HIGH		
FLOOD	4	LOW	LOW	There is no reason to expect other than normal, localized flooding: however, an unexpected, precipitation pattern could trigger moderate flooding.	See specific rivers at: http://ahps.wrh.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/ahps.cgi?sew
AVALANCHE, LANDSLIDES & LOCAL HAZARDS	5	LOW	LOW	Large snow deposits and rapidly changing freezing conditions increase local avalanche risks. For additional information on natural hazards, see the State Hazard Mitigation Plan: http://emd.wa.gov/3-map/mit/mit-pubs-forms/hazmit-plan/hazmit-plan-idx.htm	Avalanche information: http://nwac.us/ WA EMD Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Assessment: http://emd.wa.gov/3-map/a-p/hiva/01-hiva-toc.htm

TECHNOLOGICAL HAZARDS	CURRENT PRIORITY	PROBABILITY / FREQUENCY	IMPACT POTENTIAL	ANALYSIS	REMARKS / SOURCE
LARGE HAZMAT SPILLS	1	LOW	HIGH	Because of their chemical, physical, or biological composition, hazardous materials pose a potential risk to life, health, the environment, and property. Terrorist acts involving hazardous materials could cause considerable damage and casualties.	Quick response, containment, and cleanup help limit the impact of these events. http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/Index.html
TERRORISM	2	LOW	HIGH	Increased terrorist / reactionary actions in Iraq continue with the transition to self government. Many sectors of the U.S. economy are vulnerable to disruption by terrorist activities.	DHS Threat Advisory Level has remained at "YELLOW " "Elevated". http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/
RADIOLOGICAL	3	LOW	HIGH	Radiological events can occur throughout the state not just to the Columbia Generating Station or the US Department of Energy's Hanford Reservation.	Radiological materials are regularly in transit via rail, highway, and by ship.
UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT (UMCD)	4	LOW	MEDIUM	The Umatilla Chemical Depot has begun initial destruction with the top priority being GB rockets that present the greatest risk. See: http://www.csepp.net/	Additional information can be obtain by registering with CSEPP Portal at: http://www.cseppportal.net/
DAM FAILURES PIPELINES LOCAL HAZARDS	5	LOW	LOW	No significant risk predicted at this time. Specific hazards will be reprioritized as estimated risk levels rise.	WA EMD Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Assessment: http://emd.wa.gov/3-map/a-p/hiva/01-hiva-toc.htm

POTENTIAL IMPACTS MATRIX		
RISK RATING	POPULATION IMPACT	ECONOMIC IMPACT
LOW	0-5	< \$1 MILLION
MEDIUM	6-20	\$1 – 10 MILLION
HIGH	20 +	> \$10 MILLION